

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent



Therefore, stay awake! For  
you do not know on which  
day your Lord will come.

*Matthew 24:42*



## St. Roch Parish

### PARISH DIRECTORY

**Rev. James J. Boulette, Pastor**

**Mr. Paul Connolly, Deacon**

### ***RECTORY OFFICE & ST. ROCH CEMETERY***

*Administrative Assistant ~ Mrs. Teri Rawson*

*Email: [parishoffice@strochoxford.com](mailto:parishoffice@strochoxford.com)*

### ***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE***

*Coordinator of Religious Education ~ Ms. Jaclyn Green*

*Email: [faithformation@strochoxford.com](mailto:faithformation@strochoxford.com)*

*Office Hours ~ Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm*

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### **Mass Schedule**

Saturday 4:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 8:30 AM

Friday Mass at 6:00 pm

Adoration at 6:30 pm

Confession during Adoration

Benediction at 7:30 pm

### ***Confessions***

Tuesday 6—7 pm, Friday 6:30—7:30 pm,  
and Saturday 3—3:30 pm  
or by appointment

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Phone: **(508) 987-8987**

Email: [parishoffice@strochoxford.com](mailto:parishoffice@strochoxford.com)

Website: [strochoxford.com](http://strochoxford.com)

St. Roch Prayer Line Email:  
[Prayerline@strochoxford.com](mailto:Prayerline@strochoxford.com)

**334 Main Street, Oxford, Massachusetts 01540**



From the  
Pastor's Desk



Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ,

*The Mass 2025, Issue Eleven*

Last week we completed the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, and we are on the cusp of entering into the Liturgy of the Eucharist. I wanted to push the pause button before continuing our journey through the Mass, and into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, to discuss what is happening during the Mass in the invisible Church. We just professed our belief in the Church, visible and invisible. At the Catholic Mass, we must realize that we are not recreating something, or just remembering a past event, or doing actions that represent the true event that is in our history. What is happening is we are re-presenting the actual event, and this will become abundantly clear in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

During Mass we leave our concept of time and space behind, which is a creation of God, and we enter into the timeless. At the Catholic Mass all time collides – past, present, and future – and we are present in the same upper room that the last supper took place, and we are partaking in that very event. We are standing on Calvary at the very crucifixion of Jesus; we are present at that very moment. We use language like remembrance and memory, but the Greek word that is actually used is Anamnesis. Thomas Griffin of Ascension Press explains it in this way. He says, “Anamnesis provides the details for why the Church has always taught that Christ is not re-sacrificed at each Mass, but that we enter into that one moment in history when he was scourged for our offenses and wounded for our sin. Jesus’ death defeated evil’s strongest consequence, death. Since death is a reality that impacts all people of all times, his victorious suffering stands outside of time. Therefore, at Mass the veil of time is torn open, and we kneel in the presence of that divine moment, which conquers what appears to be unconquerable” (<https://ascensionpress.com/blogs/articles/anamnesis-and-the-key-to-the-mass>). We are truly there at that very moment with God.

Also, at the Mass we are present with the Communion of Saints. We believe in the Church, visible and invisible, therefore, present among us are the saints and angels, we are there praying together. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we hear the priest say, at the end of the preface prayer, something like, “And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim,” and all respond, “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Roman Missal). We are not alone, but we are at Mass with our heavenly brothers, sisters, and all the angels – we worship together as the one Body of Christ.

Bishop Robert Barron, in his book *What Christians Believe*, which you will be gifted from the parish today, says this about our common liturgical praise, “From the beginning, Christian worship has had a transcendent orientation and mystical meaning. That is to say, it is infinitely more than the gathering of like-minded people for the purpose of mutual support and shared praise; it is an act performed in conscious union with the saints and angels in heaven and under the headship of the ascended Christ” (p.86).

Being at Mass is not a burden, but a gift from God to us. God allows us to partake in His mysteries. We gathered together, the triumph of the cross led us into the sacred space of the sanctuary, we revered God, we were greeted by the priest in the name of the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit, we asked forgiveness for our failings, we sang gloria, we prayed, listened to the Word of God in the Scriptures, listened to an explanation in the homily, professed our faith, and prayed for the whole world in the universal prayers. Now we enter the mystery of the Eucharist. I am very excited to continue our journey through the Mass as we enter into the Liturgy of the Eucharist this Advent Season.

(Photo from: <https://christourlifeiowa.com>)



With all my love and blessings from God,

*Fr. Jim*



# Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday, November 29</b>	4:00 pm	Gary W. Kemp by St. Roch Parish
<b>Sunday, November 30</b>	8:30 am	Judith McGrath by Carol & Bob Clouthier
	11:00 am	Daniel Herman by the Herman family
<b>Monday, December 1</b>	8:30 am	Doris Maynard by Ann LeClair
<b>Tuesday, December 2</b>	8:30 am	Mary R. Mills by Paula Miner & Ken Mills
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>	8:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Roch Church
<b>Thursday, December 4</b>	8:30 am	No Mass
<b>Friday, December 5</b>	6:00 pm	Ryan Jones (5th Anniversary) by the family
<b>Saturday, December 6</b>	4:00 pm	Marion Senior Quitadamo by the family
<b>Sunday, December 7</b>	8:30 am	Ryan Bernier by Mom & Dad
	11:00 am	Frederick Reeks, Jr. (7th Anniversary) by sister Yvonne Nelson & family



## Sacrificial Offering

NOVEMBER 22 & 23

Offertory Envelopes	5,208.00
Online Giving	32.00
Other sources of income	1,492.00
<b>Thank you!</b>	<b>6,732.00</b>

Campaign for Human Development 847.00



A second collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious** will be taken next weekend, **December 6 & 7.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Envelopes for the **Cemetery** may be placed in any collection basket during November & December. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas Flower envelopes received by **December 16th** will be enrolled in a special memorial listing to be inserted in the bulletin the weekend of December 27 & 28.



**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
*Holy Day of Obligation*  
**Masses will be celebrated**  
**Monday, December 8th**  
**at 8:30 AM & 6:30 PM**

## 2025 ADVENT SCHEDULE

*Join us as we enter this Holy Season of Advent, a season of waiting and preparing for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*Light your Advent wreaths! Wishing that this season of Advent fills your heart and home with peace and happiness!*



### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, November 30th

*Let us then throw off the works of darkness  
 And put on the armor of light.  
 -Romans 13:12*



### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 14th

#### Annual Card Writing Project

9:30—11:00 AM in the church hall ~ Join Us!  
 Everyone is invited to sign a Christmas card to fellow parishioners who are confined to their homes or have lost a loved one this past year.



### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 7th

**Christmas Breakfast**  
**with Children's Activities and Bake Sale!**  
**for all ages after 9:30—10:30 AM**  
**A Special Presentation of the Nativity**  
**10:30 – 10:50 AM**



### Advent Penance Service Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 PM

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 21st

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace  
 to those on whom his favor rests.  
 -Luke 2:14*



**PRAY FOR...** Kathy Perry, John & Bev Makowski, Cynthia Clark, David Dumais, Ann Caplette, Deacon Jim Denning, Jay and Jon Moore, Rose, Jill, Desirae, Jenn, Rayana and Julie, Fern Goldsmith, Cameron Chickering, Evelina Piscopo, Annmarie Morrissey, Julia Krasinskas, Paula Kapurch, June Deary, Paula Bouthillier, Andrea Reeves, Nancy Mott, Adam Yankauskas, Joel Balsh, Robert & Aline Krasinskas, Mary-ann Richard, Leona Shaw, Lorraine Dumais, Ernie LaVallee, Lisa Ackley, Lorna Hennessey, Cheryl Ducharme, Judy Leone, James Malo, Joseph, Matthew & Marie, Kyle Brodeur, Donald Morin, Pam Jackman, Leonard Marcotte, Chloe Jones, Jane Desy Montigny, Linda Vigeant, Dianne Ackley, Randy Henderson, Charley Theodore Cutting, Barbara Lavallee, Andrea Boyle, Melissa Dube, William Patrick Bernard, Peter Giles, Michelle, Susan Maass, Jack Hamilton, Barbara Wessell, Barry Fanion, Laura Kida, Sr. Jeanne Rouillard, Vinnie Rivers, David Breault.



## COME, SING TO THE LORD!



**Calling all singers and musicians !!!**

### **The Choir: IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!!**

**Please** join us for practice on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm in the choir loft or contact John Drahos (508) 667-4073, [jdrahos@charter.net](mailto:jdrahos@charter.net)

### **The Contemporary / Folk Group: IS ALSO SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!!!**

**Please** contact John Drahos (508) 667-4073, [jdrahos@charter.net](mailto:jdrahos@charter.net), to talk about how you can share the gifts God has given you!

## JUBILEE YEAR 2025 YEAR OF HOPE

### **A Special Year of:**

**FORGIVENESS  
RECONCILIATION  
CONVERSION  
and CELEBRATION**



<https://worcesterdiocese.org/jubilee>

ALL ARE INVITED TO A

## FAMILY HOLY HOUR



SATURDAY 12/6/25 @ 9:30 A.M.

*The Feast of St. Nicholas*

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH  
1222 MAIN ST, WORCESTER, MA 01603

Adoration, Praise & Worship, Confession, Followed by fellowship. All kid-friendly!

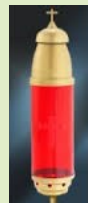
**RSVP and learn more at [bit.ly/family-holy-hour](https://bit.ly/family-holy-hour)**

This event is a joint effort of various family-focused groups and ministries of the diocese, as well as the Diocese of Worcester Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

## ST. ROCH CEMETERY NEWS

Fall decorations may now be placed on the cemetery lots. Please be sure that all decorations are placed by the monument or on top of the flat marker.

We recommend removing small statues and lamps before winter. We will not be responsible for any broken items. For more information call the rectory office at (508) 987-8987.



## CALLING ALL BAKERS!



Religious Education is fundraising to support our youth programs, and we could use your talents!

We are planning a bake sale in the church hall on **Sunday, December 7th after the 8:30 AM Mass.** Would you consider making some tasty treats to help support our kids? It's the perfect time to share your favorite holiday recipes!

Please email Jackie at

**[faithformation@strochoxford.com](mailto:faithformation@strochoxford.com)**

or call the office if you'd like to participate.

## American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA



### **THE ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE!**

Trail Life for boys is now chartered in our parish. We are now Trail Life Troop MA1321!



In addition, Troop MA0716 of the American Heritage Girls has transferred their charter to Saint Roch.

If you are looking for a Christian Catholic alternative to the Boy and Girl Scouts, here it is! If you have children in your life between the ages of 5 and 18 who want live a Christ Centered life, go on adventures, and have fun, check out our webpages at <https://strochoxford.com/american-heritage-girls> or <https://strochoxford.com/trail-life-usa> or scan the QR codes. There are interest forms to fill out so you can receive more information about signing up.





## Religious Education & Youth Nights

### Schedule 2025-2026

#### December Sessions:

- 12/7** - Holiday Bake Sale and Pancake Breakfast @9:30 in Church Hall  
 - High School Session @4:00-7:30 PM at St. Louis in Webster
- 12/12-12/13** - Confirmation Retreat at Immaculate Conception Retreat Center
- 12/14** - K-8th Grade Religious Ed @9:30-10:45 AM at Parish Center  
 - First Reconciliation @12:30
- 12/21** - K-8th Grade Religious Ed @9:30-10:45 AM at Parish Center

## CATHOLIC MOMS GROUP

**St. Roch Parish (334 Main Street, Oxford, MA)**  
**Moms from all parishes are welcome!**



#### 1st Wednesdays of Month - Adoration/Confession & Potluck

Evening starts with reverent, kid-friendly adoration, then young children head downstairs for potluck dinner and fellowship.

Moms take turns adoring the Blessed Sacrament and going to confession. Please RSVP Monday or Tuesday to gina.hamwey@gmail.com or via Google spreadsheet.

**Location:** St. Roch Church (334 Main Street, Oxford)

**Time & Dates:** 4:30 - 6:00pm on 11/5, 12/3



#### 2nd & 4th Wednesdays - Pray & Play

Pray the rosary and sip coffee with other mamas while our children play. Kids are always invited to join in the prayer too! Prayer starts at 9:30am.



**\*Time & Dates:** 9:00-10:30am on 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 12/10 (off on 11/26 and 12/24 for Thanksgiving and Christmas)



#### 3rd Wednesdays - Post-Bedtime Prayer/Discussion

Join other moms for a kids-free evening of faithful fellowship.

**\*Time & Dates:** 8:15 - 9:45pm on 10/16, 11/19, 12/17



*\*Pray & Play and Post-Bedtime Discussions are hosted at various moms homes. Contact Gina for locations.*



**New to moms group? Got questions? Got ideas for ways we can build up our moms group community?**

Please contact Gina at gina.hamwey@gmail.com.

## St. Roch Nativity Play

Sunday, December 7th 10:30-10:55 a.m.

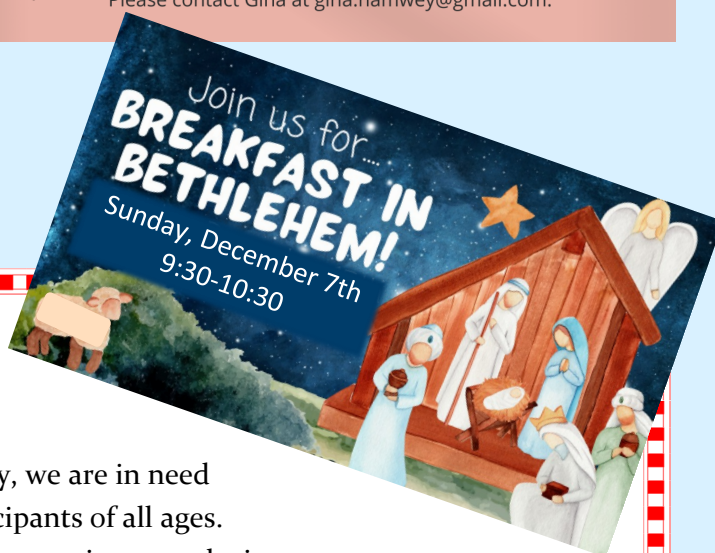
Hello all St. Roch families! As we plan the Nativity Play, we are in need of you and your families' help! We are looking for participants of all ages.

We understand that it is a very busy time of year, so we are going to make it as easy as possible. We will have a narrator read the entire play and the other participants will act out the scenes accordingly. We will take care of providing costumes and props.

All we need is for the kids to come to the church hall on **Sunday, December 7th at 9:45 a.m.-10 a.m.** to get dressed and run through the play once or twice. If you would like to have your children or grandchildren participate, please email [lynnejalbert@aol.com](mailto:lynnejalbert@aol.com) or even just bring them that morning!

We are hoping to have a beautiful and meaningful portrayal of our Lord Jesus Christ's birth.

Thank you in advance for any help and God Bless you and your families during this Advent and Christmas season!

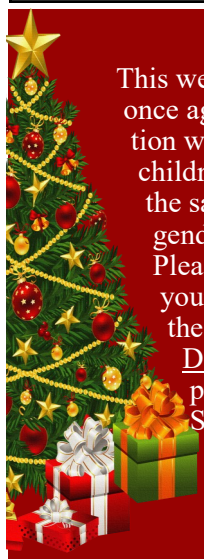


### OPERATION SANTA

This weekend the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is once again sponsoring Operation Santa in conjunction with the Oxford Police Department for the children of Oxford. A basket will be on display in the sanctuary and will have tags with the age and gender of a child.

Please take a tag and purchase a gift and place your wrapped gift with the original tag next to the display table. The Due date is Monday, December 15th. Please be on time. If late, please drop off at the Oxford Police Dept. Suggested gift value \$15-\$20. The community of St. Roch's always has the spirit of giving deep within its heart! Thank you in advance for this worthwhile project!

Your generosity truly makes a difference!



### Holiday Bishop's Dinners

We are excited to invite you to be a part of something special! *Catholic Charities Worcester County's Holiday Bishop's Dinner* are just around the corner, and we are seeking dedicated volunteers to help make this year's event a success. Your time and support will go a long way in helping us serve our community during the holiday season.

There are a few volunteer opportunities available, including:

- Meal Packaging
- Meal Deliveries
- Sit Down Dinner

If you're interested in lending a hand, we'd love to have you on board! To register, please visit the link below and sign up for your preferred opportunities:

[www.ccworc.org/bishopsdinnervolunteer](http://www.ccworc.org/bishopsdinnervolunteer)



### Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

Holiday Food Drive to Benefit the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

Will you help please?

This year, each church in Oxford is collecting "fixings" for Christmas dinner to distribute to local families in need through the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf. To go with the fixings, the Food Shelf also will be providing our families with gift cards to purchase turkeys.

We are asking our parishioners to donate: cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, instant mashed potatoes, packaged stuffing, canned peas, canned carrots, canned yams, quick bread mix or muffin mix.

Please bring your donations to church and put them in the DROP BOX located in the bins inside the front doors of the church.

Your donations will be distributed to our clients in December so that they can prepare and enjoy Christmas dinner with their families.

Questions? Please call the Food Shelf at 508-987-1062.

Thank you! Food Shelf families and volunteers appreciate your continued generosity.



## GOD'S HELPING HANDS

*Are you homebound or need a little extra love and assistance?*

We Can Provide:

Visits and Conversation

Pickup a Needed Item

Food Delivery

Rides to the Doctors

Groceries

or Other Needed Services

Call the Parish Office at **508-987-8987** for more information. Linda Lloyd is leading this vital new Parish Ministry with a small number of ministers who are here to help. Call today!

### SLEEPING BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

The **Golden Bees Group** at the *United Church of Christ, Federated in Webster*, has been putting together "**Sleeping Bags for the Homeless**" for over 30 years.

They are looking for **gently used blankets, comforters, and bedspreads** to help continue their ministry. Donations can be put in the marked bin downstairs inside the church hall of St. Roch Church. For pick up please call Charlene Lachapelle 508-987-3003. **PLEASE: ONLY BEDDING!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!**



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers to help our custodial staff with **snow shoveling** at both properties. It is important to get an early start before morning Masses to clear away the snow and salt the walkways and stairs before our parishioners arrive.

**Any help is always welcome and appreciated!**

## WORDSEARCH

Can you find and circle the words listed below the wordsearch grid?

H	Z	A	R	M	O	R	F	E	H	L	G
I	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	I	I	N
L	A	U	F	E	C	D	A	B	Z	G	O
L	P	B	S	W	O	R	D	S	Y	H	A
S	C	A	D	E	F	L	O	O	D	T	H
F	L	H	T	H	I	E	F	W	A	X	V
I	A	E	G	H	B	A	J	I	U	R	T
K	J	I	E	D	S	C	L	K	S	R	K
N	M	L	T	P	H	G	F	I	E	L	D
W	A	L	K	H	F	E	N	M	Q	P	O

HOUSE

HILLS

NATIONS

PATHS

SWORDS

WALK

SLEEP

FAITH

ARMOR

LIGHT

FLOOD

NOAH

ARK

THIEF

FIELD